Continued from pg. A15

which provides humanitarian aid and promotes family-based care for orphans. Since 2001, Sister Slater has served on the governing board of United Families International (UFI), an organization which promotes marriage between man and woman and encourages respect for cultural and religious values that preserve the family.

Sharon is Director of the International Campaign for the Family and a committee member of Families for America. She serves on the board of One Heart, Inc., whose mission is to provide "guiding principles that unite families and society through faith, courage, love, commitment, truth and integrity," Sharon says.

In her involvement, Sharon is much more than a figurehead; instead, she digs in her heels, rolls up her sleeves and accomplishes much good on every front. She has participated in international conferences and worked closely with U.N. Ambassadors and delegates from Algeria, Benin, Costa Rica, Egypt, Kenya, Latvia, Poland, Mexico, Pakistan, Qatar, Slovakia, Morocco, and the United States.

To further the cause of children and families, she has raised funds, chaired seminars, authored numerous articles and spoken to huge groups, including 1.5 million people at a pro-marriage demonstration in Madrid, Spain.

Her accomplishments—the volumes of good she has done to preserve the family—began in her own home.

"That's where *any* mother should start," Sharon says. "What really motivated me was when I became aware of what my children were learning in school."

She found her daughter's high school European history textbook "had an entire section on pornography…I was appalled," she says.

Sharon says, "I wasn't aware of anything seven or eight years ago. I had my head in the sand."

Yet, she readily learned what she needed to do, and she believes others can do the same.

"If people are willing to get involved and do what they can to try to protect the family, opportunities open up. You just have to have the desire," she says.

Today, Sister Slater's focus centers on adoption. She and her husband, Greg, have been working for four years to adopt three AIDS orphan siblings from Africa. Sharon hopes their efforts will help make a difference for countless families. Sharon has authored a publication called, "Model Policies for International Adoption;" and she is working to dispel misconceptions about international adoption through a documentary titled, "The Best Interest of the Child." (To learn about the Slaters' pending adoption and watch a short documentary, visit www.davidperryfilms.com, click on the "Africa" link at the top of the page, then on "Belchior Children Ten Minutes.")

Sharon invites individuals to learn about her current efforts, at: www.familywatchinternational.org and www.familiessavingorphans.org.

Most of all, Sharon encourages every mother, every family, to find ways to get involved in maintaining and preserving the family.

"It's good to have as many voices out there as possible," she says.

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Marie Osmond honored at ANASAZI Scholarship Dinner

Marie Osmond, shown with Pauline and Ezekial Sanchez, co-founder of the ANASAZI Foundation, was honored with the organization's Turn for Peace award at its 2006 Annual Scholarship Dinner.

Photo by Nicole Moest

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

"Miracles Happen."

So the evening's theme song attested; and, indeed, that seemed to be an apt commentary for an event that was both a celebration of miracles and the making of one as well.

The annual ANASAZI Foundation gala and scholarship dinner held last November honored entertainer and Children's Miracle Network founder Marie Osmond and her husband, Brian Blosil. The couple was awarded ANASAZI's Turn for Peace award for their work in raising $2.8 billion for children's hospitals around the world.

The Turn for Peace award is presented annually to individuals who have made a lasting impact on the lives of children and families. Past recipients include NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Steve Young, Former First Lady Barbara Bush, country music star Wynonna Judd, authors Stephen R. Covey and Richard Paul Evans, philanthropists Robert and Lynette Gay, professional sports owner/executive David Checketts, and Family Circus creator Bil Keane.

"It was a great honor to receive this recognition from ANASAZI," Ms. Osmond said.

Yet, even while being honored, Marie turned the spotlight on the organization, pointing out the good ANASAZI does for teens and families.

"They are a program founded in individualized care for our precious youth by facilitating a change of heart, while healing and strengthening family relationships," Marie explained.

The ANASAZI Foundation, a non-profit, licensed behavioral health care provider, is recognized internationally for its effective approach known as the ANASAZI Way. With a focus on improving parent-child relationships, ANASAZI's services includes a 42-day wilderness-based treatment program for youths ages 12-17 (including those often labeled as "troubled teens") and young adults ages 18-25, as well as parenting workshops, leadership and marriage courses, outpatient counseling, and community drug awareness and education forums.

ANASAZI's interventions and services have been found to be helpful for adolescents experiencing entitlement issues, substance abuse and addiction, mood disorders, self-harming behaviors, defiant behaviors, academic challenges, and learning disabilities.

The scholarship dinner, held at the Arizona Cardinals Stadium in Glendale, was hosted by philanthropists Diana and Robert Hunt.

With the Hunts, ANASAZI supporters Tom and Jan Lewis, Harry Tahiliani, and Sterling Tanner were also honored as part of the event, which was emceed by TV news anchor and meteorologist Sean McLaughlin.

The dinner also served as a welcome home for ANASAZI co-founder Larry Olsen, recently returned (with wife Sherrel) from a two-year humanitarian project in Myanmar. Larry and Ezekial Sanchez pioneered ANASAZI's wilderness philosophy at Brigham Young University nearly four decades ago.

The power of that philosophy was evident as a video depicted miraculous changes in the lives of teens and fami-

Continued on pg. A19

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Marie Osmond Honored
Continued from pg. A18

lies. A tribute was also paid to several ANASAZI graduates who have continued to excel since participating in ANASAZI's outdoor programs.

A Stanford Ph.D. candidate, former ANASAZI YoungWalker, and scholarship recipient Sarah Robinson was named ANASAZI's Young Leader for 2006. She was honored with four other finalists, including lumber-industry COO Trevor Lloyd, graduate student Davey Jensen, Micron engineering scholar Robert Wells, and entrepreneur/advertising executive Ryan Treft. NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Steve Young's Forever Young Foundation presented each of the finalists with a college scholarship.

Included in the evening's festivities were musical performances by Arizona tenor Jordan Bluth and the Saddle Rock Sisters, a Wyoming-based musical group which featured former ANASAZI YoungWalker Rachael Garnick.

Jonathan Roberts performed "Miracles Happen," a song he composed specifically for the event. To culminate the evening, more than 75 ANASAZI alumni and TrailWalkers joined Roberts and the other artists onstage for the finale.

Funds raised from the event will go directly to financially challenged families in need of ANASAZI's services. More than $200,000 was generated in five minutes via a live "auction" that invited attendees to pledge support for specific scholarship needs. Included in this amount was a $100,000 contribution from a donor who wished to remain anonymous.

"We are forever grateful for the giving hearts of those wonderful people who participated in our scholarship dinner," said ANASAZI founder Ezekiel Sanchez. "The funds raised that night will help dozens of loving parents and children turn their hearts to one another and walk in harmony in the wilderness of the world."

Editor's note: To learn more about the ANASAZI Foundation, visit http://www.anasazi.org.

Photo courtesy of Bob Brown

A nine-foot bronze statue, recognizing the sacrifices and contributions of the Mormon Battalion, was unveiled near Yuma in January, on the 160th anniversary of the battlion's crossing in that area.

MORMON BATTALION
Monument Unveiled

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

After years of concerted efforts, including changing the site and size of the monument, an impressive nine-foot bronze statue honoring the Mormon Battalion was unveiled in January.

On the 160th anniversary of the unit's march through the area around Yuma, more than 700 people gathered for the unveiling of the nearly half-ton

Continued on pg. A21

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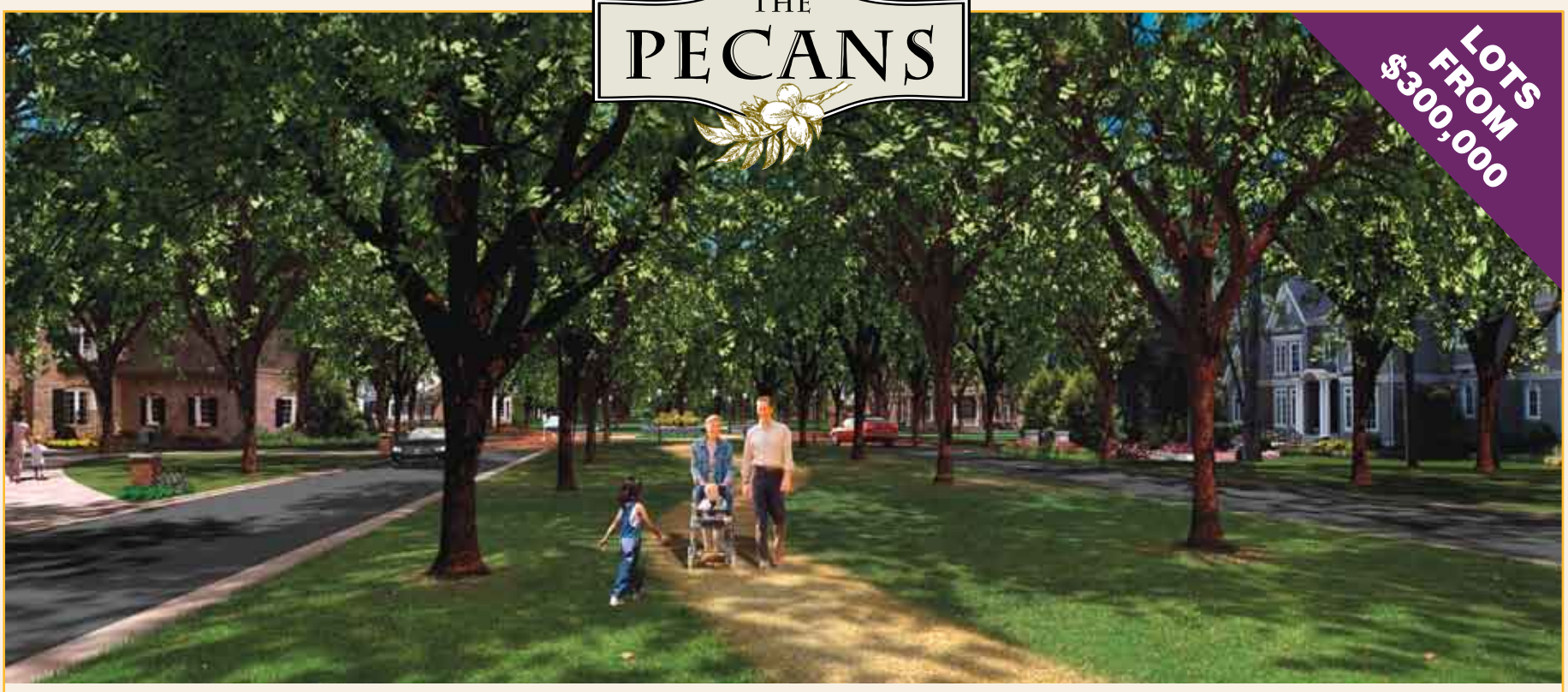

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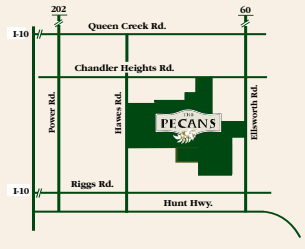

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Mormon Battalion Monument
Continued from pg. A19

bronze likeness of a battalion soldier.

The statue stands in Wet Wetlands Park in Yuma, on a bluff overlooking the Colorado River, near the spot where the battalion crossed in January 1847.

The larger-than-life-size statue, created by R.C. Merrill, portrays 2nd Lt. Philemon Merrill, who was a key member of the U.S. Army of the West. As adjutant of the Mormon Battalion, Merrill participated in the unit's arduous 1900-mile march from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to San Diego, Calif. The monument was erected to honor the contributions this military organization made to the westward expansion of the nation.

At the statue's base, a concrete pedestal embedded with 10 plaques shows a map of the march and rosters of the battalion's companies and commanders, as well as journal entries telling the history and difficulty of the march.

According to that history, the Mormon Battalion was a unit of the U.S. Army of the West, one of the four components of Army engaged in the Mexican War of 1845 to 1848. Commanded by General Stephan Watts Kearny, the U.S. Army of the West consisted of 18 companies, with a total of about 1,800 soldiers when President James Polk authorized an additional unit to be recruited mostly from displaced Mormon settlers encamped at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The Mormon settlers there had been persecuted and driven from Nauvoo, Illinois. Though it meant they would be serving the government that had just expelled them from their homes, following a call to arms from Church President Brigham Young—and a promise that if they would enlist and would contribute their pay to help fund the Mormon trek across the plains, the Church would, in turn, support their families—nearly five companies of men enlisted.

The unit was designated the Mormon Battalion and exists in the history of the Army as the only unit to be specifically comprised based on religious belief and named for that religion.

Today, the Mormon Battalion is credited with a major contribution to the settling of the West, as they founded and successfully navigated a vital route between the Santa Fe Trail and a southern route to California. This southern route was critical for the movement of settlers during the California gold rush of 1849.

One historian wrote, "The march symbolizes the very essence of the Mormon drama as a frontier epic, and proves more than anything else the men's loyalty, stamina, and sacrifice."

"The brave men of the Mormon Battalion essentially carved the roads which today are Interstate 8 and Interstate 10 in Arizona," explains Yuma Mayor Larry Nelson, who is a member of theYuma 9th Ward and of the U.S. Army of the West Mormon Battalion Foundation.

Bob Brown, vice president of the foundation, says the unveiling of the statue marks the end of a 10-year effort.

"We talked about doing a much smaller monument in the Yuma Crossing State Park," Brother Brown shares. However, the interest grew, much of it fueled by the Mormon Battalion enactments the foundation staged for local Scout troops and other groups.

Funding for the monument came from private donations as well as the sale of limited-edition bronze maquettes and silver and gold coins with an embossing of the monument. More information, including a map to the monument and information about enactments or about purchasing commemorative items, can be found at www.usarmyofthewest.org.

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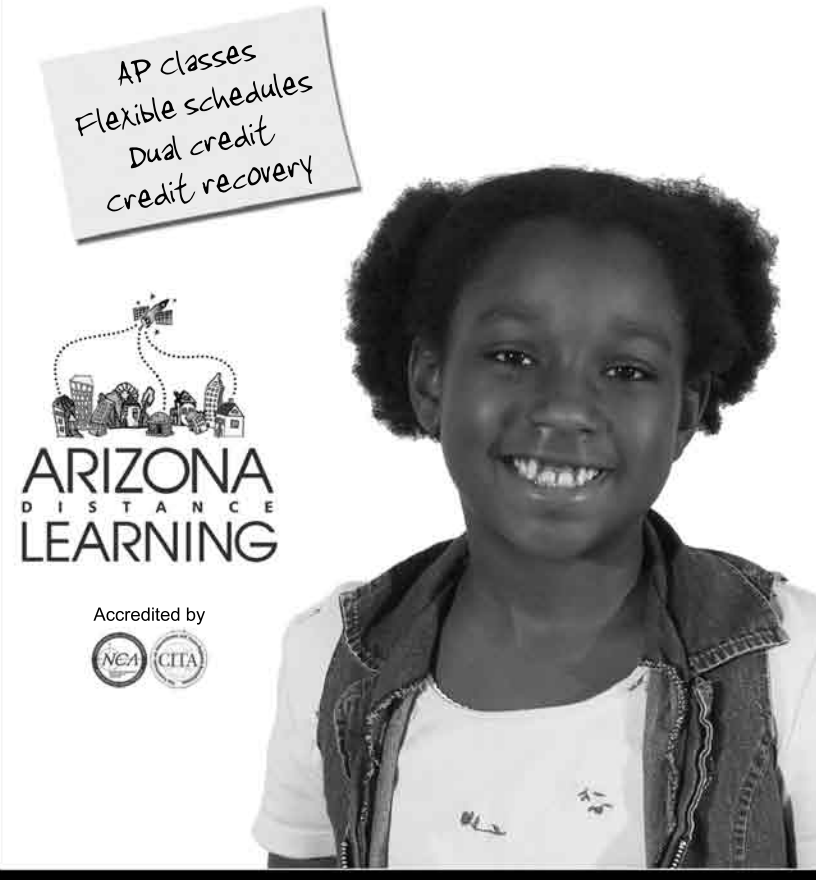

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Mesa South STAKE PRESIDENTS

All six meet for reunion

Photo courtesy of Becky Rogers

At a reunion of all six of the men who have served as stake president in the Mesa South Stake, was (back row L-R) current Stake President Raymond Speakman, President Milton Turley, President Carl B.Olsen, (front row L-R) President Wilbur Woolf, President Kenyon Udall, and President Stan Turley.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

In a unique reunion, all six men who have served as president of the Mesa South Stake met together recently.

"It was nice we could all be there," says Stan Turley, who was the stake's first president.

President Turley had served as a counselor to Mesa East Stake President Egbert Brown. When the Mesa East Stake was split in 1962, President Turley was called by Spencer W. Kimball to lead the new Mesa South Stake.

President Turley, now 87, served as stake president for nearly eight years. He also served in bishoprics in Queen Creek and East Mesa Stakes, as a stake high councilor and president of the stake 70's Quorum. For 24 years, President Turley served as the Kimball Stake Patriarch, before moving to Gilbert when his wife, Cleo, passed away. He now lives in the Kimball Stake's Glenview Ward.

Kenyon Udall, now 82, was called by Thomas S. Monson in 1970 and served as the Mesa South Stake president until 1975. He and his wife, Leona, were called to Peoria, Illinois, where President Udall served as mission president. He has been a bishop and high councilor and also was the Mesa Arizona Temple President from 1997 until 2000. Born and raised in Thatcher, he and his family lived in

Continued on pg. A23

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Deseret Book/Shadow Mountain Publishing Earns Six National Literary Award Finalist Nominations

Chosen as finalists in ForeWord Magazine's Book-of-the-Year Awards were six Deseret Book/Shadow Mountain titles and one book from Greentree Publishing by LDS authors Brent and Phelecia Hatch. The competition recognizes excellence in independent publishing as juried by librarians, booksellers, and publishing professionals.

The six finalists from Deseret Book/Shadow Mountain, and the category they represent, were as follows.

Audio Fiction
- Fablehaven
- Leven Thumps and the Whispered Secret

Juvenile Fiction
- Fablehaven

Children's Picture Book
- The King's Highway

History
- The Price We Paid

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Winners of these prestigious literary awards will be announced Friday, June 1, at the annual BookExpo America convention in New York City. For additional information about *Fablehaven, Leven Thumps and the Whispered Secret, The Price We Paid* and *The King's Highway,* please visit ShadowMountain.com and DeseretBook.com. To learn more about Raising a G-Rated Family in an X-Rated World, visit www.howtobehave.com

Editor's note: About the ForeWord Book of the Year Awards: Founded in 1997, ForeWord Magazine is the only literary review trade journal devoted exclusively to covering independent presses. ForeWord Magazine is a bi-monthly publication reaching approximately 8,000 librarians, booksellers, agents, and other industry professionals. ForeWord's Book-of-the-Year Awards, which began in 1998, has become one of the most prestigious honors for independent presses and their authors. From hundreds of entries, a jury of librarians and booksellers select the top three entries in 53 categories based on editorial excellence and professional production as well as the originality of the narrative and the value the book adds to its genre.

Mesa South Stake Presidents
Continued from pg. A22

Gilbert from 1952 until 1975. They returned to Thatcher, where he is now a member of the Thatcher 1st Ward in the Thatcher Stake.

Wilbur Woolf, now 88, was called by Howard W. Hunter and served as stake president from 1975 until 1984. He also served as stake patriarch and was the mission president in Fiji from 1984 through 1987. President Woolf has served as bishop of the Mesa 9th Ward and as a Scout master, high councilor and a temple worker for approximately 10 years. He and his wife, Leona, lived in the 9th Ward until she died in 2001.President Woolf now lives in Glenview Ward of the Kimball Stake.

President Carl B. Olsen, now 76, was called by G. Homer Durham, and served as stake president from 1984 until 1994. He also served as bishop of the Mesa 36th Ward and as a high councilor, a temple ordinance worker and temple sealer. President Olsen and his wife, Colleen, live in the Sunny Mesa Ward of the Kimball East Stake.

Milton S. Turley, now 59, was the fifth president of Mesa South Stake. Called by Dallin H. Oakes in 1994, he served until 2003. Other past callings include serving in the bishopric and as bishop of the Mesa 36th Ward, as a temple ordinance worker, a counselor in the stake presidency and on the stake high council. President Turley and his wife, Shirlene, are in Mesa South Stake's Emerald Acres Ward, but soon will leave for Missouri, where President Turley will serve as the St. Louis Missouri Mission President.

The current Mesa South Stake President, 51-year-old, Raymond D. Speakman, was called by Russell M. Nelson in 2003. A former bishop of the Mesa 24th Ward, President Speakman and his wife, Carolyn, live in the Poinsettia Ward.

Noting that was a nice occasion to all be together, President Udall laughs, "We're quite a bunch."

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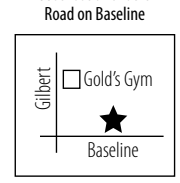

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Photo courtesy of the Gunnells

Grant and Alice Gunnell of Mesa served three years in the Accra Ghana Temple, the first temple in West Africa.

Mesa couple witnesses Church's growth in Africa firsthand

By Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

Eighteen years ago a mission call took Grant and Alice Gunnell to Nigeria. The call also took their lives in new directions as they experienced serving among the humble and faithful people in Africa.

Before their missionary service was over, Brother Gunnell was called to be mission president in the newly-reopened mission in nearby Ghana. The Church had been expelled from that West African country of 22 million people only 18 months earlier.

Then, in 2003, the couple was asked to return to Ghana, this time to serve as president and temple matron in West Africa's first temple. The temple's opening was such a remarkable event

Continued on pg. A25

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Mesa Couple Witnesses Growth
Continued from pg. A24

that many called it "miraculous."

The Church has grown a great deal in this country since missionaries entered in December 1978. Some of that growth has been witnessed firsthand by the Gunnells.

"It's been a wonderful thing to serve among such humble, sweet and happy people," says Sister Gunnell of the Mesa Kimball East Stake.

"I've never seen such faithful people," says President Gunnell, having witnessed many sacrifices made by members to enjoy the blessings of the temple.

Yet, the road to getting a temple built wasn't an easy one.

The **Ghana** Accra Mission was created in 1985, nearly 30 years after Church headquarters began receiving letters from **the people in the area** requesting literature and Church membership. The Church grew steadily among the Ghanaians.

Then, in 1989, without warning to LDS leaders, the government of **Ghana** banned the Church. Missionary work was shut down, buildings were confiscated and members were no longer allowed to gather in assemblies to worship. This time was referred to as "the freeze."

Eighteen months later, the government reversed its decision and permitted Church activities to resume. At the time there were more than 9,000 Church members in **the country**.

In 1998, President Gordon B. Hinckley announced the time had come to build a temple there.

Following that joyous announcement, construction was delayed during the process of obtaining building permits. Nearly four years later, ground was finally broken on a six-acre plot on the main avenue running through the center of the capital city of Accra.

The Gunnells arrived in Ghana in December 2003, just as the temple open house was beginning.

A top priority at that time was to call others to assist in temple work, says President Gunnell, who had served as stake president in Citrus Heights, Calif. Since locals had to travel to the Johannesburg South Africa Temple or the London England Temple to receive temple blessings, few had been endowed.

He recalls that of 225 potential temple workers interviewed, 75 were called and of those, only five or six had been endowed.

Most weren't even sure what it meant to be a temple worker but, when asked to serve, a typical response was, "I can do it; the Lord will provide a way for me to serve," says President Gunnell.

Many could barely afford the cost of transportation, but they would make a four- to five-hour trip by bus to work an afternoon and a next morning shift, then to return home again. Others would leave home by 3 a.m. so they could arrive for preparation meeting.

"You just can't help shedding a tear when you see what they go through to come and serve with us," President Gunnell wrote in his journal.

The temple, which is surrounded by the Accra Christiansborg Stake Center, Africa West Administration Building, and an ancillary housing building, has become a great blessing to the people.

"They were already a humble, spiritual people," says President Gunnell, "but it has enhanced that and helped to raise the level of commitment."

The Gunnells say they have been touched by their experiences and especially by the people.

"They're our brothers and sisters," says President Gunnell. "When you've been to Africa, it never leaves you. What is impressed upon your mind are the people, the spirit of the people, their struggles and the fact that despite their struggles, they remain true and faithful and will sacrifice anything for the Lord."

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Mesa nonprofit organization HELPS FAMILIES of developing countries

Photo by Audra Petit

Grant and Victoria Walker of Mesa are the founders of Families Helping Families, a grassroots organization which aids families in developing countries.

By Audra Pettit
The Beehive

Grant Walker of Mesa remembers well the October 1998 evening when he and his wife, Victoria, stood in their family room watching the news coverage of Hurricane Mitch that devastated parts of Central America.

"Village people were digging down [through mud] to their houses to salvage what they could," Grant explains.

The Walkers moved into action.

Continued on pg. A27

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Mesa Nonprofit Organization Helps
Continued from pg. A26

"We had travel passes and teenage kids. We wanted to help," Brother Walker says.

The Walkers made plans to take their five oldest children and spend spring break helping in Honduras, where entire villages had been destroyed by floodwater and mudslides. When word of their trip reached home teachers, friends and family, the number of volunteers grew to 30.

The Walkers contacted the LDS Church Area Authority in Trujillo, Honduras, to see how the group could help, then spent three and a half days working in the area.

"We didn't get much done," Grant recalls, "but we were able to leave behind $1,500."

A picture arrived a few months later, showing the family who lived in the home built with the group's donations.

Word spread about the Walker family trip and more families wanted to become involved. Another trip was planned for spring break in 2000. This time, the group accomplished more, building an entire house in a week; and, as Victoria recalls, the volunteer families were hooked.

"They told us that we had to keep doing this," she says. "We told them we would, with their help."

The Walkers formed Families Helping Families (FHF), a nonprofit organization to aid the poor in Honduras and other developing countries. Today, Brother and Sister Walker work closely with 12 board members in Arizona, another board that supervises work in Mexico, and additional staff in Honduras, Nicaragua and other parts of the world.

Since the original trip in March 1999, Families Helping Families has returned to Honduras 12 times, taking volunteers, often families, who pay for their own travel and expenses and help raise funds to build homes.

In 2001, FHF expanded its efforts to build homes for the needy in Puerto Penasco, Mexico.

"We've had over 100 volunteers from Arizona, Utah, California and Washington State," Brother Walker explains. "The majority of the home is completed during our visit. Then, volunteers in Mexico finish the interior work."

Currently, the organization builds an average of eight houses a year in Mexico and Honduras.

FHF will build houses free for widows, single mothers and disabled individuals, who own land. Other families qualify for a home by showing they can make modest payments to cover the cost of the land and the supplies. Then, the family also must complete 250 service hours to help build a home for someone else.

"It's real work," stresses Victoria. "Each family member can participate toward the completion of service hours."

Families end up being able to purchase a home that is built to U.S. standards and is larger and more suited to their needs, and at a much lower cost than they would have to pay to rent.

In February 2004, FHF expanded further to include a business school in San Pedro Sula, Honduras; another school was opened in February 2007. The one-year intensive coursework teaches adult men and women business principles, basic accounting, business ethics, computer skills and English. Students are also offered driver's education.

To pay their tuition, students help build or repair homes for widows, orphans, single mothers and the elderly.

By June 2005, Brother and Sister Walker were spending every weekend working with FHF in Mexico. They bought a home and transferred their Church records to the Puerto Penasco First Branch where Brother Walker currently serves in the Branch Presidency and Sister Walker is the Young Women's President.

Families Helping Families welcomes financial donations and willing participants as well as skilled craftsmen.

"We're all God's children," says Victoria. "These are our brothers and sisters. We have to help them."

Editor's note: For more information on Families Helping Families, contact Grant and Victoria Walker at victoria-walker@hotmail.com

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Battling the Orphan Crisis on Two Fronts

Care for Life & Dr. Marc Tahiliani

From the programs it promotes to the people it attracts as volunteers and supporters, it's clear that the organization lives up to it's name and does, indeed, Care for Life.

As an Arizona-based nonprofit foundation and 501(c)(3) charitable organization with status in Mozambique, Africa, Care for Life states its mission is *"to alleviate suffering, promote self-reliance and instill hope."*

Orphan Crisis

Specifically, Care for Life's mission addresses the needs of orphans in Africa, where the number of orphans has reached crisis proportion. Currently in Africa there are 34 million orphaned children; by 2010, the number will reach 42 million, with half of these cases being the result of HIV/AIDS.

While the AIDS epidemic is widespread worldwide, in Africa, it has ravaged the country, affecting not only the health of the population, but the country's social structure as well. Children whose parents succumb to AIDS often are abandoned by relatives, who adhere to the social stigma surrounding the disease. Many shun the children for fear of infection; or extended family members simply don't have the necessary resources to care for yet one more orphaned child. Alone and rejected, millions of children are left to fend for themselves with no one to attend to their physical or emotional needs.

Orphanage Support

Concerned about the well-being and survival of these children, Care for Life recognized the need to find an immediate, viable answer that would also provide ongoing solutions for their care and housing.

Care for Life contacted the Collegial Infantile Orphanage in Beira, Mozambique, and found that while it was state-run, it was woefully under-funded and understaffed. They were in desperate need of everything from staff support, to clothing and medicine for the 75 children who lived in the orphanage. Care for Life stepped in to help and has become the orphanage's primary financial sponsor.

Currently, the Colegio Infanitil, also known as the Baby Orphanage, cares for 60+ children, ranging in age from birth to five years old. Many of the babies at the orphanage are there because their mother died at childbirth. Often the surviving father is unable or unwilling to care for the child because he cannot afford baby formula and clean water to feed his child. Older children at the orphanage are there because one or both parents have died or are so ill with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or other illnesses that they cannot care for their children.

When the orphans arrive, many are ill and malnourished and come from abusive situations. The goal at the orphanage is to re-integrate children, either into the care of extended family or foster parents, by the time they turn five. Children attend public school starting at age three.

As of late last year, Dr. Marc Tahiliani, president of AwarenessLife, has stepped in to help. Dr. Marc Tahiliani now supports the Care for Life efforts by providing the funding to assist with special projects at the orphanage as well as to pay the salaries of all the staff at Colegio Infantil. This includes the salaries of approximately 30 caregivers who tend to the needs of the children. Historically, Care for Life has provided whatever resources they had available to assist the orphanage with repairs and other non-personnel related expenses as needs have arisen. Now, with the involvement of Dr. Marc Tahiliani, Care For Life will be able to reallocate those resources to focus on what they see as another important priority–helping to reduce the large number of new orphans entering the system.

Dr. Marc Tahiliani said, "*These children are suffering and we can't just stand by. They are so young and need a chance at life. They need our support. I encourage all who hear of Care For Life to help them in any way they can to help them further the tremendous work they do in Mozambique.*"

The Family Preservation Program

The flagship program of Care For Life is the Family Preservation Program. The goal of this program is to work at the front-end, grassroots level of the orphan crisis by strengthening families. Stronger, self-reliant families, taking care of their own children is the only true solution to the orphan pandemic sweeping across Africa. The Family Preservation Program, a family-based development program, is slated to reach more than 11,000 people in eight communities by the end of 2007.

"*The Family Preservation program can help keep these families together and most importantly, become more self-reliant. This is the long term answer these children need.*" stated Marc.

The Key Strategies of the Family Preservation Program are:

- Strengthening the capacity of families to protect and care for orphans and vulnerable children by prolonging the lives of parents and providing support in the following areas: health and hygiene, food, housing, education, income-generating activities, psychosocial needs and community participation.
- Mobilizing and supporting community-based responses to provide immediate and long-term assistance to vulnerable households.
- Assisting orphans and vulnerable children have access to essential services including education, health care, government registration, and others.
- Helping governments protect the most vulnerable children through improved policy and legislation and by channeling resources to communities.
- Raising awareness at all levels through advocacy and social mobilization to create a supportive environment for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

"The Family Preservation Program is already making tremendous inroads in helping participating families to improve their health, sanitation and nutrition. Most importantly, families are experiencing a new hope that through hard work, and cooperation, they can change their circumstances." stated Bradley McBride, president of Care for Life.

The goal of Care for Life and Dr. Marc Tahiliani (AwarenessLife), is to assist those children who find themselves orphaned, or in desperate need, while at the same time working to prevent as many children as possible for ending up in similar circumstances.

If you would like to donate to Care for Life, please contact them at **www.careforlife.org** or call **(888) 564-6235.**

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The **Price *Was* Right** for Peoria Stake Member

Kathleen Pearson of the Sahuaro Ranch Ward in the Peoria Stake show the memorabilia she gathered when she realized a life-long dream and not only got on stage at The Price is Right show--but won the biggest prize of the day.

Photo by Breauna Pearson

Rebecca S. McCormick
The Beehive

Kathleen Pearson, a member of the Sahuaro Ranch Ward in the Peoria Stake, recently realized a long-time dream when she appeared on *The Price is Right* television show.

Not only was Kathleen chosen as a contestant on the show, but she came away as a top winner for the day, bringing home prizes totaling $33,888.

"It was awesome," she says.

Kathleen has always enjoyed watching *The Price is Right* and, she explains, "It's been a lifelong dream to be on the show. Some people have dreams to go on vacations, but this was my dream."

She had been in the studio audience twice before but hadn't been chosen to be on stage. Determined to try again, she and some family members made plans to go to California for the January 2 afternoon taping of the show. Kathleen had reserved tickets several months prior, but tickets do not guarantee admission. After getting tickets, it is first come, first serve for actually getting in to see the show. The first 300 are accepted for both the morning and afternoon tapings.

"We got there at 4:30 in the morning and waited there all day," says Kathleen.

When people arrive, they stand in line to receive a ticket indicating their number of arrival.

"I was the 250th person there," Kathleen explains.

Once guaranteed a position in the audience, people are taken in groups of 10 to be interviewed by the producer.

"This is the time when, if you want to get on the show, you have to be wild and crazy and not care what you look like," replies Kathleen.

When the producer questioned Kathleen about her occupation she replied, "I am a professional Price is Right watcher."

Kathleen's enthusiasm and answers must have made an impression.

She says, "There was one lady called, and then they called me. I just jumped up. I was the second one called down,"

From "contestant's row," Kathleen made it on stage when her bid on two banjos was the closest to the actual price. On stage, she played the "Any Number" game and won a Ford Ranger. For the final showcase, Kathleen was able to spin last since she was the top winner to that point.

Kathleen got nervous when a man ahead of her got 80 cents; but, she exclaims, "I got a 20 and then 75; I beat the guy with 80 cents!"

She passed on the first showcase offered and bid on the second, which consisted of a 65-inch television, a stand up mirror, and a trailer.

Kathleen was thrilled that her dream had been fulfilled. Her excitement spread to her husband and three children, her ward members and friends. When the showed aired on February 9, she invited everyone to her house to watch and celebrate.

Though being on the show is a one-time thing and Kathleen isn't eligible to win again, she says, "I would absolutely go again, just to be in the audience."

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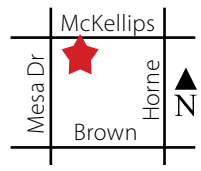

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In the final analysis, Laurel Durrant Leavitt reaped what he considered the best bounties of life—a faithful, close-knit family; fellowship in the body of Christ and a legacy of a lifetime of service and kindness.

Photo by Kyle Fairbanks

In a heartfelt tribute to Laurel Leavitt, who earned a living farming as he raised a strong family, the family's restored tractor, driven by sons, (l to r) Brent, Sterling and Wayne, and his brother, Keith, was used to bear the casket at Brother Leavitt's funeral.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

An unlikely hearse, yet, in the most fitting tribute imaginable, a shiny green John Deere tractor that had been restored by his son, Sterling, carried Laurel Durrant Leavitt's casket to his final resting spot in the Mesa Cemetery March 14.

Continued on pg. A31

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Farmer Leaves Harvest of Love
Continued from pg. A30

His life was synonymous with farming. Laurel farmed the land, but, as he did, he raised much more than crops. He nurtured his own strength of character, leadership and love and tended the fruits of tender faith and devotion to the Lord.

In the final analysis, Laurel Durrant Leavitt reaped what he considered the best bounties of life—a faithful, close-knit family; fellowship in the body of Christ and a legacy of a lifetime of service and kindness. Indeed, his was the kind of harvest that endures beyond the veil.

His daughter, Linda Hartmann, who is the business manager for the Beehive, says, "He was a wonderful man. He lived a wonderful life."

He died March 8, surrounded by Joanna, his wife of 51 years, and their six children and their spouses: Laurel Ann and Eric Strate, Linda Kay and Stephen Hartmann, Laurel Sterling and Sheleen Leavitt, Wayne Durrant and Charlys Leavitt, Suzanne and Kevin Shreeve, and Brent Dale and Jenni Leavitt. Twenty-one grandchildren and two great grand-children were also there.

"He is a part of all of us and we are part of him," his daughter, Laurel, said in remarks at his funeral.

Laurel D. Leavitt was born October 5, 1932, in Provo, Utah. He was named for his father and was the second child born to Laurel Evan and Melvina Durrant Leavitt.

The family moved to St. George and later to Bunkerville, Nevada.

Laurel enjoyed his childhood and learned to love the outdoors, dogs, horses and swimming, his daughter explained, saying, "He loved his friends and enjoyed anything that was fun, thrilling and exciting."

"He worked long and hard to provide, preside and protect his sacred ancestry and precious posterity."

In 1944, when he 12 years old, Laurel's family moved to Homedale, Idaho, and Laurel helped his father on the farm where they grew hay, grain, and all kinds of fruits and vegetables.

"Laurel learned to love work, a quality he maintained his whole life," his daughter continued. "He prided himself in being able to stack hay higher, drive a tractor longer, and work harder than anyone else."

Brother Leavitt was a member of the Maricopa Stake and served in various capacities in the church. He particularly loved Scouting. He was a Scoutmaster for over 25 years and received the Silver Beaver award.

Sister Strate added, "Dad was an athlete and loved to play any sport that required hard work and dedication." He coached the Young Men's basketball team for more than 30 years.

Brother Leavitt was the farm manager at the University of Arizona Experimental Farm, a 160-acre site now occupied by the East Valley Institute of Technology. He retired in 1991, after more than 36 years.

Brother Leavitt also farmed 60 acres on the corner of Baseline and Extension and continued to do so after retiring from the experimental farm. For the next 20 years, he drove his tractor the two miles from his home to the farm site every morning.

"My dad wasn't a fancy dresser, and much preferred wearing work clothes and bib overalls to suits. However, when it was time for Church or Priesthood ordinances he quickly donned a suit with a white shirt and tie," Sister Strate said.

"My dad loved his family," she added. "He worked long and hard to provide, preside and protect his sacred ancestry and precious posterity. Nothing made him prouder than to know that one of 'his own' was standing for truth and righteousness."

For Laurel Durrant Leavitt, his was a life of sowing goodness and of planting seeds of testimony in the hearts of his family and many, many others as he lived according to his firm belief: "I know the gospel is true, brothers and sisters, just as true as true."

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